

Specifically, the present invention is directed to improvements in the operation and stability of short-pulse fiber lasers. It has been found by the present inventors that, for example, isolation and spooling contribute significantly to laser stability.

On the other hand, the Buser disclosure does not disclose or suggest a spooled short-pulse fiber laser. All of the spools 52 or 54 shown in this reference are simple optical fiber light guides. In other words, there is no spooled fiber laser in the Buser disclosure. Indeed, Buser does not disclose a fiber laser at all. The only laser described in Buser is a CO₂ cavity laser.

Accordingly, inasmuch as Buser neither discloses nor suggests a fiber laser whatsoever, it cannot speak to the problems associated with short-pulse fiber lasers, nor to techniques for assuring operational stability of the same. Indeed, it is clear from the actual disclosure of Buser that the fiber spools used in that reference are inserted for the purpose of creating a series of variable time delays only. See e.g., column 5, lines 24-26 and column 6, lines 49-52.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Buser teaches nothing of relevance with respect to either the field of the present invention or the specifically claimed embodiments thereof.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE
USAN 10/050,716

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard C. Turner', written over a horizontal line.

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